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# Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition

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### Top news stories:

#### **Presidential debate could shed light on energy issues (POLITICO)**

Wednesday's presidential debate offers one of the final chances to pin down the candidates on the energy issues that have loomed so large in this campaign — from gasoline prices and green jobs to the Keystone XL pipeline and Solyndra .

#### **Insight: Delays dog U.S. government loans to green energy projects (Reuters)**

A year after the U.S. government raced to meet a deadline to finish loan agreements with dozens of clean energy companies , less than half the total money promised has been handed over .

#### **Cabot's Methodology Links Tainted Water Wells to Gas Fracking (Bloomberg)**

Methane in two Pennsylvania water wells has a chemical fingerprint that links it to natural gas produced by hydraulic fracturing , evidence that such drilling can pollute drinking water .

#### **Interior approves first phase of 146-mile high-voltage transmission line (Washington Post).**

The Obama administration gave a green light to the first section of a proposed 146-mile transmission line Tuesday, calling it a critical upgrade to the faltering Northeast power grid and saying it will eventually create 2,000 jobs.

### Energy news:

#### **Chesapeake Testing 'Green' Fracking Fluids in Shale Wells (Businessweek)**

Chesapeake Energy Corp., the second- largest U.S. natural gas producer, is testing hydraulic- fracturing fluids composed solely of environmentally -benign components in wells.

#### **No Breakthroughs Necessary: 95 Percent Renewable Energy Possible By 2050 (DeSmogBlog).**

This new analysis, "Transition to a fully sustainable global energy system ," published in Energy Strategy Reviews, examines demand scenarios for the major energy use sectors -- industry, buildings, and transport -- and matches them up to feasible renewable supply sources .

#### **Biofuels industry lauds automakers for approving higher ethanol fuel blend (The Hill).**

Automakers Chrysler, Ford and General Motors Inc. have approved use of a higher concentration of ethanol fuel in new vehicles — a significant victory for the biofuels industry.

#### **Colorado Voters Get Revved Up Over Energy Policy (National Public Radio)**

It's a subject that is certainly on the minds of voters in Larimer County , Colo. Last week, in a rural area outside Fort Collins , Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan held a campaign event in a warehouse at Walker Mowers , a family-owned manufacturer of lawn mowers and tractors .

#### **Oregon, UK Move Forward With Marine Energy Testing Sites (Sustainable Business)**

The US Department of Energy (DOE) is awarding a \$4 million matching grant to the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center (NNMREC) to create a world class, grid-connected ocean energy test facility off the Oregon Coast .

#### **Chamber chapters urge Obama, Romney to pledge support for clean energy (The Hill).**

A coalition of Chamber of Commerce chapters want President Obama and GOP candidate Mitt Romney to take a pledge emphasizing federal support for the clean-energy industry.

#### **SolarWorld confident as U.S. nears decision on Chinese solar panels (Reuters)**

U.S. solar panel producers, who have already won preliminary duties on billions of dollars of solar panel imports from China , appear well positioned to win longer-term relief in coming weeks as the U.S. government makes its final decisions.

#### **Japan retrieves first shale oil in test drills (Reuters)**

Japan Petroleum Exploration said it has retrieved the country 's first oil from shale layers deep below the earth 's surface, a potentially important development for a nation that imports most of its energy requirements .

### Climate news:

#### **Drop in Emissions Not a Trend Set in Stone, Study Says (New York Times)**

A report released today by Climate Central asks a provocative question : Can United States carbon emissions keep falling ?

#### **Weather Channel Announces Plan to Name Winter Storms (Climate Central)**

The Weather Channel announced Tuesday that it is going to assign names to winter storms during the 2012-13 winter season, in much the same way tropical storms and hurricanes are named. Starting with Athena and ending with Zeus, the media company said the winter storm names will improve communications of storm warnings and help reduce storm impacts .

**FTC’s Revised Green Guides Target Carbon Offset Claims (Environmental Leader)**

Marketers should not make broad, unqualified general environmental benefit claims about a product being green or eco -friendly, and should have reliable scientific evidence to support carbon offset claims, cautions the Federal Trade Commission’s Revised Green Guides .

**Plants Won’t Help Fight Global Warming As Much As We’d Thought (Smithsonian)**

The incredibly complex science underpinning our understanding of climate change can be boiled down to a simple calculation : some processes produce carbon dioxide, like forest fires or burning fossil fuels, and some soak it up, like plant growth. A large-scale experiment, running for more than a dozen years, has found that this value may be much less than some scientists had anticipated .

**Will Climate Change Slow Marathon Times? (LiveScience)**

The average annual temperature in Boston rose by about 0.027 degrees F per year between 1893 and 2005 (more than twice the global average). And the April average has crept up 0.031 degrees F per year over the same time period . Researchers from Boston University examined whether these consistently climbing temperatures had any effect on the big race .

**Sea Level in the Year 3000: Why We Should Care (Climate Central)**

Sometimes a new scientific result is so clearly important that the bottom line needs no explaining — a report showing how ocean acidification threatens food security around the world, for example, or one that ties melting ice in the Arctic to the threat of colder , snowier winters for the U.S.

**Candidates spar over global warming in Nebraska Senate race (The Hill)**

Former Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.), who's trailing GOP rival Deb Fischer in their race for the state 's open Senate seat, turned to his opponent’s denial of the human impact on global warming to gain some ground .

**As Arctic Melts, Inuit Face Tensions with Outside World (Yale Environment 360).**

Sakiasiq Qanaq has seen a lot of changes on the north coast of Baffin Island in recent years as the retreat of summer sea ice has continued unabated . But the Inuit hunter has never seen anything quite like this year , when sea ice loss in the Arctic hit a record low .

**Environment & Health news:**

**Cuomo: 'No step back' in shale gas (Times Union)**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that a new step in the Department of Environmental Conservation 's rule-making process for hydrofracking didn't represent an effort to hobble potential approval of the controversial natural gas drilling process .

**Farm Bill Expiration Puts Forward-Thinking Food Policy at Risk (Civil Eats)**

As of this week, our nation’s food and farm policy in the form of the 2008 Farm Bill has officially expired, with no workable replacement. There are many who see this as a better course of events than the passage of one of the new , admittedly imperfect, bills passed by the Senate and proposed in the House . Others view congressional inaction as no big deal . We beg to differ.

**La. Sen. blasts BP, Coast Guard over spill cleanup (Fuel Fix)**

Louisiana’s Republican U.S. senator blasted oil giant BP PLC on Tuesday for what he called its attempt to run from its full cleanup responsibilities for the nation’s worst offshore spill, the 2010 disaster that left the Gulf Coast heavily oiled .

**Ambitious plans for oil sands would create lakes from waste (Globe and Mail)**

When the companies mining heavy crude from northeastern Alberta finish their work , they intend to pump water into old mine pits , some with toxic effluent at their bottoms, before leaving the area to biological processes to restore it to health .

**There IS a Bicycle Economy, Two Cities Find (TreeHugger)**

Portland, Oregon and New York City, two very different cities, are finding something similar about cyclists and pedestrians - they tend to spend a bit more money in local economies.


\* indicates subscription required

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*These news clips are intended to be informative and are provided as a courtesy to member offices of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition (SEEC), and others. SEEC is a coalition of fifty-two Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives that was founded in January 2009 to be a focused, active, and effective coalition for advancing “policies that promote clean energy technology innovation and domestic manufacturing , develop renewable energy resources, and create green collar jobs throughout the product supply -chain, and polices to help arrest global warming and protect our nation’s clean air, water and natural environment.” SEEC is Co-Chaired by Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY), Paul Tonko (D-NY), and Gerald Connolly (D-Va.). SEEC vice chairs are Reps. Rush Holt (D-NJ), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Doris Matsui (D-CA.)*

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